



Representative
Ryan Yamane
State Capitol
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People First

A newsletter from State Representative Ryan Yamane

37th District • Mililani • Waipio Gentry

2008 Session

Dear Friends,

The 2008 session was a challenging one. As the Chairman of the House Tourism Committee, we faced increasingly difficult economic times with the closing of Aloha Airlines and ATA, and with the departure of two NCL cruise ships. My bill last year, HB 575, which created a Tourism Emergency Trust Fund, was used to respond to the airline crisis. This is my vision of proactive legislation that I hope will help protect Hawaii's future.

The tougher economic times were reflected in the state budget. All of District 37 CIP appropriations from last year were reauthorized in this biennium budget, along with new appropriations for Mililani High and Mililani Uka Elementary Schools, and Kamehameha Highway. As the Chairman of Tourism, I worked to get grant-in-aid appropriations for the Bishop Museum, Aloha Stadium, and the USS Missouri Memorial Association.

My personal focus for legislation has been on health and safety issues for our community. Because of the brushfires in Waipio and Mililani last year, I worked hard with the State Fire Council to pass legislation that would improve fire safety. My bill, HB 2438, would ensure that only reduced ignition cigarettes that go out if they are not being actively smoked could be sold in Hawaii, reducing the possibility of brush and home fires.

Thank you for honoring me with your support, and I look forward to working with you to make our community a better place to live. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

With warmest aloha,

Ryan Yamane

Tourism Emergency Fund

Last year, as the Chairman of the House Committee on Tourism and Culture, I introduced legislation to create a tourism emergency trust fund that could be used in the case of events that would substantially interrupt the business of tourism, and thus adversely affect the welfare of the State of Hawaii. HB 575, which was signed into law as Act 201, established a \$5,000,000 fund to be collected by the Hawaii Tourism Authority from transient accommodations tax revenues that would be set aside to be used in times of emergency.

With the closing of Aloha Airlines and ATA, the departure of two of the three

ships of Norwegian Cruise Lines, and the spike in airfares caused by the rise of jet fuel prices, the Hawaii Tourism Authority approved the expenditure of \$3,000,000 from the emergency fund to go to marketing efforts to convince tourists that Hawaii still offers a good value for their vacation. In addition, HTA tapped the fund for nearly \$459,500 to help 2,211 stranded passengers of the airline closures. The passengers were both local people stranded on the mainland and tourists trying to get home. The good will that this assistance provided vastly improved Hawaii's reputation as a destination that cares for its visitors.

Fire Safety Legislation

As we begin another summer fire season, I introduced legislation that would establish a process to ensure that only fire-safe cigarettes would be sold in Hawaii. My bill, **HB 2438**, would allow only the sale of reduced ignition propensity cigarettes by September, 2009. Fire safe cigarettes are less likely to cause a fire if they are thrown from cars into dry brush or when cigarettes are lit and left unattended in a home causing a home fire. Ultimately, this will save lives.

In addition, I helped introduce a package of fire safety legislation for the State Fire Council, comprised of the Fire Chiefs from each County, the Hawaii Firefighters Association and the National Fire Protection Association. This package included **HB 2436** which would create additional prohibitions on the use of fireworks, and **HB 2467** which requires the State Fire Code to become part of the State Building Code. **SB 2425** specifies that a defendant convicted of arson may be required to reimburse the costs for fire-fighting costs, salaries, operation and maintenance of apparatus and supplies.



Visiting the Waiau Fire Station.



Working with the County Fire Chiefs from the State Fire Council.

Safeguarding Our Communities

Electronic Enticement – Act 80 (HB 3040) establishes a 10 year prison sentence for adults who use the Internet to lure minors into sex. The law also expands the amount of information about sex offenders posted online on the state's sex offender registry, including names, addresses, photographs, identifying characteristics, listing any professional licenses they hold, and a description of their crime. Offenders must also provide updates of their information annually, instead of every five years as in the current law.

Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles – SB 2245 prohibits adults from leaving a vehicle with an unattended child inside for more than five minutes.

Domestic Violence Electronic Monitoring Device – SB 2218 establishes a two-year pilot program allowing the courts to require an abuser to wear a global positioning system device, to prohibit contact with the victim within court defined geographic exclusion zones, and to notify the victim when the abuser enters those zones.

Education – From Early Childhood to University

Early Childhood Education – SB 2878 establishes the framework for the Keiki First Steps early learning system, which gives priority to underserved or at-risk children. The program will provide high quality education for Hawaii children prior to entering kindergarten through grants to public or private programs and services.

DOE and UH Repair and Maintenance – HB 2500, the state budget bill, includes \$100,000,000 for DOE whole school classroom renovations statewide, and \$66,400,000 for school building repair and maintenance. The bill also includes

Highlights of the 2008



Rep. Yamane's priority was CIP for Mililani Public Library renovations.

\$71,207,000 for repair and maintenance projects at UH campuses state wide, including the community colleges, \$1,225,000 for improvements to Cooke Athletic Field, \$2,595,000 for improvements to the UH Manoa Women's Locker Room for Title IX compliance, \$386,000 for a training room at Les Murakami Stadium, and \$135,000,000 for continued development of a West Oahu campus, along with many other improvements at UH.

Traffic and Highway Safety

Ignition Interlock Device for DUI cases – HB 3377 requires the installation of an ignition interlock device into the automobiles of persons arrested for driving under the influence while their cases are pending and their licenses are revoked. The device prevents the starting or operating of the vehicle of a person with more than a minimal amount of alcohol consumption. The

District 37 CIP New

Mililani Uka Elementary School
Construction to stabilize eroding slope and ground and site improvements

Mililani High School
Plan, design and installation of the synthetic sports stadium, and ground improvements

Kamehameha Highway Improvements from Ka Uka Blvd.
Land acquisition and construction for traffic and other improvements including sidewalk, and highway lighting

Reauthorized CIP App

Kanoelani Elementary School
Electrical improvements

Mililani Uka Elementary School
Electrical improvements

Mililani Waena Elementary School
Partitions for pod classrooms

Mililani Middle School
Covered play court

Mililani High School
Drop off area, turn around and guest parking Improvements to electrical system

Mililani Public Library
Parking lot expansion

Grant in Aid App

Bishop Museum Repair and Maintenance

American Red Cross Headquarters Building
Renovations and disaster upgrades

USS Missouri Memorial Association Building

Catholic Charities
Construction for new Community Center

Parents and Children Together Transitional

Aloha Stadium Repair and Renovations

Disaster Warning System and Civil Defense



Dr. John Brummel, Mililani High School, honored as NASS Principal of the Year.



Inspecting Mililani High School renovations with Representatives Lee and Oshiro.

8 Legislative Session

costs of installation will be paid by the defendant. It also increases license revocation periods for highly intoxicated drivers and repeat DUI offenders.

Pedestrian Safety – HB 357 appropriates \$1,000,000 for the Department of Transportation to identify and improve problematic intersections, high-risk crosswalks and road crossings in order to pro-

Appropriations 2008

at back of school,	\$484,000
thetic turf in the nts	\$930,000
n Waipahu Street to	\$5,000,000
traffic operations and bikeway, drainage,	

Appropriations 2007-2008

	\$950,000
	\$575,000
	\$2,160,000
	\$2,500,000
arking	\$300,000
	\$1,145,000
	\$1,500,000

Appropriations 2008

	\$1,000,000
	\$200,000
ng Renovation	\$250,000
	\$500,000
er	
Housing Program	\$250,000
	\$25,850,000
e Communications	\$2,600,000



Honoring soccer star Brian Ching of the Houston Dynamo at the State Capitol.

mote pedestrian safety, especially for elderly persons.

Expanding Access to Healthcare

Medicaid Reimbursements – SB 2041 appropriates \$5,700,000 which will be matched by \$7,500,000 in federal funds, to help cover costs for Medicaid patients treated at Hawaii hospitals.

Uninsured Medical Care – SB 2542 appropriates \$1,000,000 to Hawaii's federally qualified health centers to provide medical care for the uninsured.

Prescription Drugs Savings – Act 59 (HB 7) authorizes Hawaii's participation in the interstate I-SaveRx program, which provides reduced prices on prescription medications from Europe and Canada to Hawaii residents.

Protecting and Caring for Our Elderly

Long-term Care – HB 2062 allows Medicaid eligible individuals to choose to receive nursing facility care, or to receive

home- and community-based long-term care services by directing the Dept. of Human Services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Long-Term Care Commission – SB 3255 establishes a Long-term Care Commission to determine what resources are necessary to meet state long-term care public policy goals and recommend programs and funding mechanisms to meet those needs.

Reducing Hawaii's Oil Dependency

Solar Water Heaters – SB 644 requires the installation of solar water heaters in all new residential developments constructed after January 1, 2010.

Solar Energy Facilities – Act 31 (HB 2502) permits solar energy facilities to be built on marginal agricultural lands, those with a soil classification of D or E. This will allow us to "farm" the sun.

Protecting the Environment

Turtle Bay Acquisition – Act 140 (SB 2423) authorizes the Governor to negotiate the acquisition of the Turtle Bay Hotel and Resort and surrounding lands in order to preserve culturally important land and the rural character of Oahu's North Shore.

Haiku Valley Preservation – HB 2704 establishes the Haiku Valley Cultural Preserve Commission in order to preserve and protect Haiku Valley in Windward Oahu.

Preservation of Conservation Land – SB 2198 provides tax credits to landowners to donate land or invest in management of land to encourage the preservation and protection of conservation land in the state. **HB 3177** increases the penalty for violations within the conservation district and protects Native Hawaiian gathering rights.



Mililani Uka Elementary third graders visit the Capitol.



Read to Me at Kanoelani Elementary School.

Priority Bills for Rep. Yamane

Scrap Dealers and Recyclers – Act 91 (HB 2589) was a bill I introduced to deter copper theft by requiring scrap dealers and recyclers to pay for copper by a check payable to the seller rather than giving the seller cash. It would then require that the check be mailed to the address shown on the seller's photo identification, which must be issued by a government agency. Alternatively, the check could be picked up by the seller at the recycler's place of business. I introduced this bill in the hopes that by making it more difficult for a thief to obtain ready cash, it might deter the incidences of copper theft in our communities.

National Guard Vehicle Tax Exemption – Act 141 (HB 2605) provides for the exemption of the vehicle weight taxes for a noncommercial vehicle per member of the National Guard, military reserves and other active duty military personnel, including the Coast Guard, who claim Hawaii as their residence. This was the National Guard's number one legislative priority.

Tourism Committee Legislation

Monk Seal as the Hawaii State Mammal – Act 72 (SB 2464) designates the Hawaii monk seal as the official state mammal which would raise public awareness of the endangered animal and better protect it.

Kalaupapa -- \$100,000 was appropriated in our budget to construct a monument on Molokai to recognize Hansen's disease patients sent to Kalaupapa. In addition, **SCR 208** was passed that acknowledged the people of Kalaupapa and their families for their great sacrifices and for rebuilding their lives with pride and dignity.

Commemorations and Holidays – Act 140 (2007) and HB 2500 created and funded the Fiftieth Anniversary of Statehood Commission which will plan and coordinate various activities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Hawaii's admission to statehood. **Act 15 (HB 3343)** officially recognizes the contributions of Filipino-Americans to the state and nation by designating October as Filipino-American History Month. **Act 68 (SB 1035)** designates November 20th of each year as Makahiki Commemoration Day, which celebrates the Hawaiian beliefs of land conservation, unity and peace at the start of the Makahiki season.



Honoring Jackie Young and Chris Pablo for work with the American Cancer Society.



Fingerprinting for Keiki ID cards at the Mililani Health & Wellness Fair.



Chaplain Ronaldo Pascua and wife Joy delivers invocation before the House of Representatives.



Volunteering for "Hats Off Fundraiser" for the Red Cross of Mililani.



Opening Day with Jennifer and Daniel.

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